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Investigations on Ethno-medicinal plants used to cure skin diseases in Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh, India

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Abstract

Adilabad, a hilly district is rich in ethno-medicinal plants. Here, we report 36 ethno-medicinal plant species belonging to 25 families used for skin ailments. A total of 12 informants with in the age group of 50 to 60 were interviewed, among them two were tribal practitioners. Ethno-medicinal plants used by tribal inhabitants of Adilabad district to cure skin diseases have been documented along with plant parts used.

Key-Words: Medicinal plants, Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh.

Introduction

The physical examination of the skin and its appendages, as well as the mucous membranes, forms the cornerstone of an accurate diagnosis of cutaneous conditions. Most of these conditions present with cutaneous surface changes (lesions), which have more or less distinct characteristics. Medicinal plants form the basis of traditional or indigenous system of health used by the majority of the population of most developing countries¹. In recent years, there has been a tremendous range of interest in the medicinal plants especially those used in Ayurvedas and other traditional systems of medicine. Our dependence on herbal medicines further increase when it comes to light that synthetic drugs produce side effects. Previously many people reported the Ethno-medicinal plants that are used for various ailments growing in and around of Adilabad district²⁻³. Most of the information on medicinal uses of plant preparations given here have been found to be new when compared with earlier published work⁴⁻⁷. In the present paper, an attempt has been made to document the list of ethno-medicinal plants used to cure skin diseases in Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Study Area

The present ethno-medicinal study has been carried out in Adilabad district of Andhra Pradesh. It is situated between 77° 47' and 80° 0' of the eastern longitudes and 18° 40' and 19° 56' of northern latitudes. The district is bounded on North by Yeotmal and Chanda districts of Maharashtra on the East by Chanda district, on the South by Karimnagar and Nizamabad districts and on the west by Nanded district of Maharashtra state. These harbour mainly dry deciduous forest and aborigines. These forests occupy about 44.5 percent of the total geographical area of the district. The total forest area in the district is 7218.86 sq.km. The total population of the district is 24,88,003 out of which the tribal population is 4,16,511 in which Gond population is 2,21,376 (52.15% in total district Tribal population) as for 2001 Census of India. The main occupation of the people is agriculture.

Material and Methods

The authors have conducted an extensive field survey in the tribal belts and other interior villages adjoining forest areas in the district to collect information about ethno-medicinal plants used by the tribals to heal skin diseases. Simultaneously, actual applications of plant parts to treat skin diseases were also observed during the field work. The plant species are enumerated alphabetically by family followed by their tribal name, plant part used and mode of administration. (Table-1)

Results and Conclusion

The paper presents a brief account of the uses of various ethno-medicinal plants parts against the diseases by the people of Adilabad district, Andhra Pradesh, India. The study provides information on 36

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plant species (35-dicots;1-monocot) belonging to 25 families (Table 1). Leguminosae contributed maximum species (06).Of the plants species described, 35 species are monocotyledons, one is dicotyledon. The plant parts used for medical preparation were bark, roots, rhizome, leaves,branches, gum and whole plants. In some cases the whole plant including roots was utilized.The most frequently utilized plant parts were leaf (12) followed by the roots (7), bark (5), seeds (4), Whole plant(3), gum(2), Latex(1),fruits(1), branches(1) and rhizome(1). Some times they combined gum with bark paste for treatment.The common dosage forms include paste,decoction,juice.

The forests of Adilabad district are rich in medicinal plants, many are still not known to us. Present investigation indicates that Adilabad district is blessed with magnificent diversity of ethno-medicinal plants used to cure many diseases. The present study will give new incentive to the traditional system of healthcare. Further, this approach for the treatment of skin diseases is a practical, cost-effective and biological safe.

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Table 1: Ethno-medicinal plants used to cure skin diseases in Adilabad District, Andhra Pradesh, India

S/No.	Plant Name and Family	Local Name	Part Used	Mode of Administration
1	<i>Acaci chundra</i> (Roxb.ex Rott.) Willd. LEGUMINOSAE	Sundra Chettu	Stem bark	Steam bark decoction taken orally in 2-3 spoonfuls thrice a day for now many days.
2	<i>Acalypha ciliata</i> Forssk. EUPHORBIACEAE	Pedda Muripinda	Leaf	Leaves ground with turmeric and the paste applied affected areas.
3	<i>Acalypha indica</i> L. EUPHORBIACEAE	Muripinda	Leaf	Leaves ground with turmeric and fine paste applied on effected areas.
4	<i>Ailanthus excelsa</i> Roxb. SIMAROUACEAE	Peddamanu	Root bark	Stem bark paste applied on affected areas till cure.
5	<i>Alangium salvifolium</i> (L.f.) Wang. ALANGIACEAE	Udugu, Uргу	Root bark	Root bark paste applied on affected areas till cure.
6	<i>Ampelocissus latifolia</i> (Lam.) Planch. VITACEAE	Pule- teega	Branch	Branches made into poultice and applied on effected areas till cure.
7	<i>Argemone mexicana</i> L. PEPAVERACEAE	Mundla Rakkasi	Whole plant	Entire plant paste applied on effected parts of the skin.
8	<i>Artocarpus heterophyllus</i> Lam. MORACEAE	Panasa	Leaf	Dried leaf ash is mixed with castor oil and applied on effected areas.
9	<i>Barleria prionitis</i> L. ACANTHACEAE	Mulla Gorinta	Root	Root paste applied on effected areas.
10	<i>Brassica juncea</i> (L.) Czern. CRUCIFERAE	Aavalu	Seed	Seed oil applied externally.
11	<i>Buchanania axillaries</i> (Desr.) Ramamurty ANACARDIACEAE	Pedda morli, Sarapappu	Leaf, Kernel	Kernels made into paste and applied on effected areas.
12	<i>Cassia tora</i> L. LEGUMINOSAE	Tantepu	Seed	Seeds ground with buttermilk and the paste applied on itching areas till cure.
13	<i>Clerodendrum phlomides</i> L.f. VERBENACEAE	Thakkalaku	Leaf	Leaf paste applied on effected areas till cure.
14	<i>Cucumis melo</i> L. CUCURBITACEAE	Karbuja	Fruit	Tender fruit pulp applied externally.
15	<i>Curculigo orchoides</i> Gaertn. HYPOXIDACEAE	Nela Tadi	Rhizome	Rhizome and root paste applied on effected areas till cure.
16	<i>Dichrostachys cinerea</i> (L) Wt. et Arn. LEGUMINOSAE	Veluturu Chettu	Root	Root paste applied externally till cure.
17	<i>Ficus religiosa</i> L. MORACEAE	Ragi, Ravi	Stem bark	Stem bark poultice applied externally till cure
18	<i>Jatropha gossypifolia</i> L. EUPHORBIACEAE	Goopala Chettu	Leaf	Leaf paste applied externally till cure.
19	<i>Lawsonia inermis</i> L. LYTHRACEAE	Maida –aku	Stem bark	Stem bark paste applied externally till cure.
20	<i>Lindernia crustacea</i> (L.) Muel.	Verla Kammi	Whole plant	Plant poultice applied externally on effected areas till cure.

	SCROPHULARIACEAE			
21	<i>Mangifera indica</i> L. ANACARDIACEAE	Mamidi	Gum, Stem bark	Gum combined with bark paste is applied on effected areas.
22	<i>Mimosa pudica</i> L. LEGUMINOSAE	Atti patti	Leaf	Leaf juice rubbed on the body to prevent itches.
23	<i>Mollugo nudicaulis</i> Lam. MOLLUGINACEAE	Pedda Paripata	Whole plant	Plant juice applied externally for prevention of itchings.
24	<i>Nyctanthes arbor-tristis</i> L. NYCTANTHACEAE	Parijatam	Leaf	Leaf decoction given in ½ glass once or twice a day for a week.
25	<i>Pavetta indica</i> L. RUBIACEAE	Papad, Papadi, Papatta	Leaf	Leaf paste applied on itchings.
26	<i>Phyllanthus reticulatus</i> Poir. EUPHORBIACEAE	Puli Chettu	Root	Leaf paste applied on effected areas till cure.
27	<i>Plumeria rubra</i> L. APOCYNACEAE	Vada Ganneru	Latex	Latex applied externally
28	<i>Pongamia pinnata</i> (L.) Pierre. LEGUMINOSAE	Kanuga	Seed	Seed oil applied externally till cure.
29	<i>Portulaca quadrifida</i> L. PORTULACACEAE	Sanna pappu koora	Leaf	Leaf paste applied externally till cure.
30	<i>Pueraria tuberosa</i> (Willd.) DC. LEGUMINOSAE	Nela gummadi	Root	The tuberous root poultice applied externally till cure.
31	<i>Santalum album</i> L. SANTALACEAE	Chandanamu	Seed	Seed oil applied for all kinds of skin diseases.
32	<i>Semecarpus anacardium</i> L.f. ANACARDIACEAE	Bhilawa, Jeedi	Gum	Gum formed from the stem bark applied externally.
33	<i>Solanum nigrum</i> L. SOLANACEAE	Kamanchi pandu	Leaf	Leaf juice applied externally to prevent itchings.
34	<i>Strychnos nux-vomica</i> L. LOGANIACEAE	Eser Mushti, Isha mushti	Leaf	The leaves are boiled in water along with the leaves of <i>Alangium salvifolium</i> , <i>Azadirachta indica</i> and <i>Leucas aspera</i> and then used for bathing and said to be effective and Leaves ground with leaves of <i>Vitex negundo</i> and the paste with gingelly oil is applied externally till cure.
35	<i>Syzygium cumini</i> (L.) Skeels MYRTACEAE	Alla neredu	Stem bark	Stem bark extract applied on effected areas.
36	<i>Tragia involucrata</i> L. EUPHORBIACEAE	Durada gondi	Root	Root paste applied externally till cure.